

Message Text

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UNCLAS KUWAIT 1482

FOR NEA/APR LUMSDEN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, KU

SUBJ: DEATH OF LEWIS R. SCUDDER

1. I REGRET TO INFORM YOU AND THE AMBASSADORS AT INFO ADDRESSEES OF THE DEATH IN KUWAIT, ON APRIL 3, OF DR. LEWIS SCUDDER. YOU WILL WANT TO ADVISE AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS CURRENTLY ON ASSIGNMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT: HOWARD COTTAM, HARRISON SYMMES, JOHN GATCH, WALTER MCCLELLAND, ENOCH DUNCAN, PAT CUNNINGHAM, RICHARD MITCHELL AND LUCIEN KINSOLVING. BECAUSE OF DR. SCUDDER'S LONG-TIME ASSOCIATION WITH THIS EMBASSY AND GENERATIONS OF FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL, THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE DEPARTMENT'S NEWSLETTER:

2. LEWIS R. SCUDDER, LONG-TIME CHIEF OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE DUTCH REFORM MISSION IN KUWAIT, AND IN RECENT YEARS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KUWAIT MILITARY HOSPITAL, DIED THURSDAY, APRIL 3, OF AN HEART ATTACK SUFFERED WHILE PLAYING TENNIS. HE WAS 69.

3. THE SON OF MISSIONAIRIES, LEWIS WAS BORN IN VELLORE, SOUTH INDIA ON NOVEMBER 4, 1905. HE DID HIS MEDICAL TRAINING AT RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE, IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. FOLLOWING A BRIEF

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VISIT TO KUWAIT IN 1938, HE AND HIS WIFE, DOROTHY, SPENT NEARLY

A YEAR AT THE DUTCH REFORM MEDICAL FACILITY IN AMARAH, IRAQ. AFTER INTENSIVE ARABIC STUDY IN INDIA, THE SCUDDERS SETTLED IN KUWAIT IN SEPT. 1, 1939, WHERE THEY WORKED AND STUDIED THROUGHOUT THE WAR YEARS.

4. IN 1946 LEW RELIEVED THE MEDICAL OFFICER IN AMARAH, FINALLY RETURNING TO KUWAIT FOR GOOD IN 1949 WHEN HE BECAME CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE MISSION THERE. DOROTHY SERVED AS NURSING SUPERINTENDENT AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR. FROM THE TIME THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN KUWAIT OPENED IN 1951, THE SCUDDERS DEVELOPED CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS WITH FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL SERVING THERE, AS WELL AS HELPING TO MEET THEIR MEDICAL NEEDS IN EARLY YEARS.

5. WHEN THE DUTCH REFORM MISSION CLOSED THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN KUWAIT, THE SCUDDERS STAYED ON TO MANAGE THE LOCAL MILITARY HOSPITAL. THEY HAD PLANNED TO RETIRE THIS YEAR AND HAD SUBMITTED THEIR FORMAL RESIGNATION TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ON EASTER SUNDAY. IN OFFERING HIS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY, ABDUL RAHMAN ATEEQI SAID: "THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS READ DR. SCUDDER'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION AND LAID IT ASIDE, BUT GOK DECIDED TO ACCEPT IT."

6. LEW SCUDDER WAS BURIED APRIL 5 IN THE CHRISTIAN CEMETERY AT SULIEBIKHAT, FOLLOWING FUNERAL SERVICES AT THE OLD MISSION CHURCH. HE IS SURVIVED, ALONG WITH HIS WIDOW BY HIS SON LEWIS, CURRENTLY PASTOR OF THE NATIONAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN KUWAIT, AND TED, WHO IS EMPLOYED BY ARAMCO IN SAUDI ARABIA; AND BY HIS DAUGHTER MARILYN, AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST IN MOSHE, TANZANIA, AND PAM, AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER IN ILLINOIS.

7. FRIENDS OF THE SCUDDER FAMILY MAY WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR SYMPATHY BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE LEWIS SCUDDER MEMORIAL FUND OF THE NATIONAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN KUWAIT.
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